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Sign-up was heavy for the 1962 Feed Grain and Wheat Programs. Final reports show farmers have agreed to divert about 48 million acres to soil conserving uses.....32.7 million from feed grains and 15.1 million from wheat.

Some 6 million more feed grain acres than last year have been signed up for diversion.....Corn, 2.8 million acres more than 1961.....Sorghums, .1 million more.....Barley, not included in 1961 program, 3.1 million acres. The corn acreage signed up represents 26.5 percent of the 1959-60 U. S. base acreage; sorghum acreage, 32 percent; and barley, 19 percent.

Wheat acreage signed up for diversion is about 27 percent of total 1961 wheat plantings.....As of May 1, USDA estimated wheat output in 1962 at about 1.1 billion bushels, or a cut of about 12 percent from 1961. But much depends on extent of diversion in the wheat program as well as weather and other factors.

FEED GRAINS--Heavy disappearance of feed grains during 1961-62 probably will cut down year-end carryover to 75 million tons- 10 million less than last year.....Exports are expected to reach a new high and total tonnage of feed concentrates fed to U. S. livestock likely will be above last year's record level.

WHEAT--Carryover of wheat this July 1 is expected to be about 1.4 billion bushels, down slightly from the all-time record of a year earlier.....This would be the first decline since 1958.....Exports are expected to hit a record 685 million for 1961-62 but domestic use will be about the same.

LIVESTOCK--Red meat production in the second quarter is expected to be slightly below year-earlier levels. Beef: Probably will be down 4 percent because of lower slaughter rates and lighter dressed weights.....Pork: Expected to remain above a year ago.....Lamb and Mutton: Likely to be considerably below.

Cattle prices will probably decline this summer, but not as sharply as last year. Outlook for hogs: Prices should start increasing seasonally until mid-summer; for lambs: Prices for spring lambs will likely start decreasing from recent seasonal peaks.

DAIRY--Milk production in April, at 11.3 billion pounds was up about 1 percent over last April. Though rate of increase in output has slowed, milk production in the second quarter will probably top year-earlier levels.

Total consumption of milk in all forms is expected to increase this year over last because of growth in population and increases in CCC donations for butter, cheese, and nonfat dry milk.....But indications are for lower per capita consumption of fluid milk and cream in 1962 than last year.

EGGS--Egg production continues to exceed year-earlier levels. Prospects through the summer are for output to remain above 1961.....as much as 3 percent above, in the second quarter.

In mid-April, farmers received 31.5 cents for a dozen eggs compared with 33 cents in the previous month. Following the strong Easter demand, prices for eggs have declined further below 1961 levels. For the next few months egg prices will likely continue to average below those of a year ago.

BROILERS--A cutback in broiler output is in prospect for the second quarter compared with a year ago. Prices are likely to average higher. Last year, in the second quarter, farmers received 13.9 cents per pound for broilers.

FATS AND OILS--About 435 million bushels of soybeans are likely to be crushed this marketing year--a new record and 8 percent above last year's crush. With exports expected to reach 165 million bushels, a carryover of around 55 million is likely this October 1. Such a carryover, although 49 million above a year earlier, would represent only about a month's requirement for crush and export. Soybean prices are expected to continue fairly stable this summer, averaging around the CCC resale price, but sharply below last year.

Domestic disappearance of lard likely will increase for the 1961-62 marketing year because of increased consumption in shortening manufacture.....But exports probably will be down about 12 percent from 1960-61 because of the Cuban market loss.

FRUIT- The 1962 peach crop in nine Southern commercial peach States is expected to be 23 percent smaller than the large 1961 crop--mostly because of freeze damage to buds and blooms.....Early May prices to growers for pears and grapefruit are up from last year, but lower for apples, oranges, and strawberries.

VEGETABLES--Fresh market vegetable supplies are expected to be smaller this spring than last.....Supplies of potatoes in late spring will likely be materially smaller than the heavy supplies of a year ago.

COTTON--Disappearance of cotton during the current season at 14.0 million bales probably will be well below last season.....An increase in mill consumption is not expected to offset the export decline.....Thus, the carryover is expected to be somewhat larger this August 1 than the 7.2 million bales of a year earlier.

